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PORTRAIT AND DATA

OF

Thomas C. Platt

THRICE ELECTED UNITED STATES SENATOR, AND A POWER IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.

National Newspaper Biographies

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J. C. Platt

THOMAS COLLIER PLATT

THRICE ELECTED UNITED STATES SENATOR, AND A POWER IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.

Thomas Collier Platt, senior Senator of the State of New York, was born in the village of Owego, Tioga County, N. Y., on July 15th, 1833. His father was William Platt, well and favorably known as a prominent and successful lawyer and real estate man in central New York.

The future statesman was carefully instructed at the Owego Academy, and, after due preparation, he entered Yale. His record there was full of promise but ill-health compelled him to leave his studies.

Mr. Platt organized the Tioga National Bank and became its President at that time, and has occupied the Presidency up to the present time. He also organized and was instrumental in the construction of the Southern Central Railroad. For many years he was its President and a Director of the corporation. Later he became the Receiver, and was such at the time of its absorption by the Lehigh Valley Railroad.

From an early period in his life Mr. Platt took a deep interest in politics. His first political position was that of Clerk of Tioga County.

From that time on Mr. Platt has exercised a growing influence in the councils of the Republican party, until he reached the acknowledged political leadership in New York State.

In 1870 Mr. Platt declined an offer of the nomination to Congress. Two years later he was, however, elected, and in 1874 re-elected. He was delegate to the National Republican Conventions of 1876, 1880, 1884, 1888, 1892 and 1900, and has been a member of the National Republican Committee.

The year 1877 saw Mr. Platt Chairman of the Republican State Convention of New York. He was afterwards elected to the Forty-third and Forty-fourth Congresses, and in 1881 he first took his seat in the United States Senate from that State. At this time Mr. Platt was associated with Alonzo B. Cornell, and did much to aid the political fortunes of General Grant and Roscoe Conkling. When the Republican party, after the election of President Garfield, was engaged in its bitter family quarrel over the New York appointments (especially the Collectorship of the Port), Mr. Platt, as well as Mr. Conkling, then senior Senator from the State of New York, resigned their Senatorial positions on May 16th of that year, and both returned to private life and business.

After Senator Conkling's death, in 1888, the Republican party, which had been torn almost asunder by dissension, divided into factions, wearied of useless antagonism, and, under the leadership of Mr. Platt, reunited, and was led to glorious victory by their invincible leader, under whose direction many brilliant victories have been won.

Mr. Platt was again elected United States Senator in 1897, took his seat March 4th, 1897, and still again elected to the Senate in 1903, for a period of six years.

Senator Platt has many enemies; but they are in the ranks of those who have felt the defeats which his generalship inflicted upon them. He believes in straight Republicanism, and owes allegiance to none other, and the rank and file who follow his lead know that he is the same aggressive, uncompromising statesman that he was when he became associated with Conkling. Mr. Platt was for a number of years the President of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & R. R. Co.

Mr. Platt directs the vast interests of the United States Express Company, and is engaged in many other business enterprises. He is a member of the Lawyers' and American Yacht Clubs, and of the Yale Alumni and Metropolitan Museum of Art Associations, of the American Geographical Society, and of the Chamber of Commerce.